

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 NRC-07 ERDA-07 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FEAE-00
FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04
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P R 151406Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7225
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USEEC

DEPT PASS NRC AND ERDA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, ENRG, UK
SUBJECT: REPROCESSING AND PROLIFERATION: THE WIND-
SCALE INQUIRY CONTINUES

REF: LONDON 13474

1. ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, CHRIS HERZIG OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WAS SUBJECTED TO QUESTIONING AT THE WINDSCALE INQUIRY BY RAYMOND KIDWELL, THE LAWYER FOR FRIENDS OF THE EARTH. KIDWELL SUGGESTED THAT IF BRITAIN PARTICIPATED IN NEGOTIATIONS ON NON-PROLIFERATION WHILE IT WAS REPROCESSING ITS OWN AND PERHAPS FOREIGN NUCLEAR FUEL, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GUILTY OF HYPOCRISY. KIDWELL POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WAS TO KEEP OPTIONS OPEN, BUT ONCE NUCLEAR FUEL HAD BEEN REPROCESSED THE RESULTING PLUTONIUM COULD BE USED ONLY IN A FAST BREEDER REACTOR
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OR A BOMB. HERZIG DENIED THERE WAS ANY INCONSISTENCY. IT WAS HOPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD AND DECREASE PROLIFERATION RISKS.

2. AT THE BEGINNING OF A SEQUENCE OF QUESTIONS, KIDWELL MADE AN EMOTIVE COMPARISON BETWEEN NUCLEAR REPROCESSING FOR PROFIT AND "THE GAS CHAMBER BUSINESS"

FOR PROFIT IN 1938. COMPARING THE IMMORALITY OF EACH, KIDWELL ASKED HERZIG WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE EXTERMINATION BUSINESS WAS REGARDED AS IMMORAL. HERZIG REPLIED "YES". KIDWELL THEN ASKED, "RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, PRESIDENT CARTER REGARDS REPROCESSING ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AS IMMORAL AND LIKELY TO LEAD TO DEATH?" HERZIG REPLIED, "HE CERTAINLY REGARDS IT AS LIKELY TO INCREASE THE RISKS OF NUCLEAR WAR".

3. KIDWELL ALSO ASKED, "THE ARGUMENT THAT IF WE DON'T DO IT SOMEBODY ELSE WILL, IS CERTAINLY A POOR ONE, ISN'T IT?" HERZIG AGREED, BUT ADDED THAT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL DECISION, BECAUSE "DENYING ACCESS TO NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY HAS PUT PRESSURE ON COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED KINGDOM, TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN. IT HAPPENED AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR WHEN AMERICA TRIED TO KEEP NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO ITSELF."

4. HERZIG ALSO SAID THAT EVEN IF THE JAPANESE WERE UNABLE TO SEND FUEL AT THE RIGHT TIME OR IN THE RIGHT QUANTITIES, BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS WAS FINANCIALLY PROTECTED. KIDWELL SAID, "IN 1982, BY THE TIME WE START TO BUILD THE PLANT, THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT MIGHT HAVE SAID THAT THE JAPANESE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SEND THEIR FUEL HERE." JUSTICE PARKER, WHO IS PRESIDING OVER THE INQUIRY, SAID, "AS I UNDERSTAND THE AMERICAN PRESI-
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DENTIAL CYCLE, EVEN IF PRESIDENT CARTER HAD SAID IN JANUARY THAT YOU COULD REPROCESS JAPANESE FUEL, BY 1982 THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER PRESIDENT AND HE MIGHT SAY YOU COULD NOT. SURELY ALL YOU ARE SAYING, MR. KIDWELL, IS THAT THERE IS UNCERTAINTY?"

5. THE INQUIRY RESUMES THIS AFTERNOON.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 15-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
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